Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 SAJ-01 ACDA-07 /079 W

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R 181505Z JAN 77 FM USMISSION USBERLIN TO AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, WB, GW, GE

SUBJECT: BUNDESTAG MEETINGS IN BERLIN AND CARSTENS' ELECTION AS

BUNDESTAG PRESIDENT

1. AT COMMANDANTS' MEETING JAN. 17, GOV MAYOR SCHUETZ SAID HE WOULD BE VERY SURPRISED IF NEW BUNDESTAG PRESIDENT CARSTENS (CDU) DID NOT FOLLOW HIS PREDECESSOR'S POLICY OF SUPPLYING ALLIES THROUGH BONN GROUP WITH DATES AND AGENDAS OF FORTHCOMING BUNDESTAG MEETINGS IN BERLIN. NORMAL PROCEDURE IS FOR COMMITTEE, FRAKTION, ETC. TO NOTIFY BUNDESTAG PRESIDENT, WHO THEN CONVEYED INFO TO FOREIGN OFFICE FOR PASSAGE TO ALLIES.

2. SENATOR FOR FEDERAL AFFAIRS STOBBE SAID MORE DIF-FICULT PROBLEM INVOLVED LANDTAG FRAKTIONEN AND COMMITTEES. FRAU RENGER, OUTGOING SPD BUNDESTAG PRESIDENT, HAD ALWAYS SAID THAT SHE WAS IN NO WAY RESPONSIBLE FOR LANDTAG DECISIONS BUT AS A MATTER OF COURTESY, CONFIDENTIAL

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SHE PASSED WHAT INFORMATION SHE HAD TO FONOFF FOR USE WITH ALLIES. WHETHER CARSTENS WOULD BE WILLING TO DO THE SAME REMAINED TO BE SEEN. MOREOVER, IF ALLIES EVER HAD LEGAL OBJECTIONS TO A LANDTAG AGENDA, POSSITION WOULD BE DIFFICULT SINCE NO MENTION IS MADE IN QA OF LANDTAG BODIES.

3. LAST WEEK BOTH SENATOR STOBBE AND STATE SECRETARY SPANGENBERG EXPRESSED VAGUE CONCERN THAT CARSTENS WOULD DELIBERATELY TRY TO SCHEDULE EMBARRASSING SESSIONS OF LEGISLATIVE BODIES IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE SUPERIOR CDU COURAGE AGAINST THE COMMUNISTS. THE BRITISH PARTICULARLY SEEMED IMPRESSED BY THESE REMARKS. SPANGENBERG UNDERTOOK TO TALK TO CARSTENS AT THE PRESSEBALL ON JANUARY 15, WITH THE AIM OF INFORMALLY EMPHASIZING TO HIM THE IMPORTANCE OF REGULARIZED NOTIFICATION OF THE ALLIES ABOUT SUCH MEETINGS. IT IS NOT YET KNOWN WHETHER SPANGENBERG WAS ABLE TO DO THIS. DAVIS

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